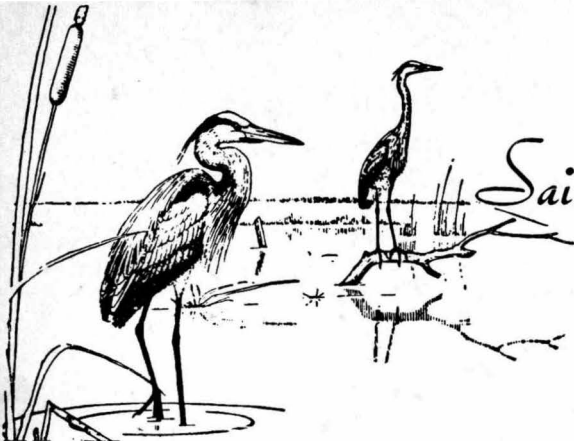




Saint Louis Audubon

BULLETIN

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AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS IN NOVEMBER

FRIDAY, November 8, Third Baptist Church at 8:15 P.M.

"Central California's Coastal Plain"

Presented by JOHN TAFT

A narrow strip of rugged coastline in California's San Luis Obispo County is the setting for this stirring conservation film. Nesting grounds for thousands of pigeon guillemots and cormorants who are joined in the fall migrations by numerous other species, including the beautiful emperor goose. Filmed, too, is a visit to the famous Hearst Ranch at San Simeon, where African game roams free.

FRIDAY, November 22, Clayton High School at 8:15 P.M.

"Four Seasons"

Presented by WILFRED E. GRAY

Portrait of a year in British Columbia, starting with spring on the coast and ending with winter in the snow-covered peaks of the Canadian Rockies. Red-necked grebes, sharp-tailed grouse, sockeye salmon, bear, and a host of other wildlife residents are shown in dramatic close-up sequences.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 21, 1968 — The Illinois side of the river. Dinner at Brussel Hotel, Brussel, Illinois. Dinner reservations must be made by December 16. For reservations and information call Sally Vasse, 618-883 2523 or Kathryn Arhos, ME 1-3090.

Saturday, December 28, 1968 — 8:00 a.m. The St. Louis Audubon Society Christmas Census group will meet at Boschertown School House, Highway 94, St. Charles County. To reach it drive across the bridge at St. Charles, follow Highway 94 north to school house located on Highway 94 at B on left side of the road. A dinner will follow the Christmas Count. For reservations and information call Earl Hath, YO 5-8642 or Kathryn Arhos, ME 1-3090.

Sunday, December 29, 1968, Webster Groves Nature Study Society census. Meet at Busch Wildlife Area. For information call Jim Comfort, WO 2-8373.

CAMP RISING SUN

Camp Rising Sun is in the Lake of the Ozarks State Park, and is where the Audubon Society of Missouri held its annual meeting October 5th and 6th. It was a fine mixture of pleasure and business, from the discussion and passage of some excellent conservation resolutions, to chalking up 90 species of birds, thanks to some talented leaders who took groups into the "field" whenever there was a free moment! The evening program included an interesting talk by Eugene Poirot on how to farm and still protect wildlife, and some beautiful pictures of Isle Royale National Park taken by the Edward Masons. The meals were so good that the 119 birders who registered must have gone home pounds heavier, despite some good hikes!

St. Louis Auduboners were well represented, and gave those who attended a happy opportunity to renew acquaintances, or make new friends, with those from Kansas City, Columbia, St. Joseph, Fenton, Louisiana, Maryville, Cape Girardeau, and other communities throughout the state. Some of our Illinois neighbors were there, too.

When the National Audubon Society convenes next April for the first time in the Midwest, in St. Louis, we can't help but think it will be a success! The way the Missouri Audubon picks up a ball and runs with it, is something to see!

David Easterla, president, and his Annual Meeting committee, are to be congratulated on a wonderful weekend.

AIR, LAND AND WATER POLLUTION

The Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region, and Washington University, are jointly holding a one day conference, entitled "The Environmental Crisis" dealing with pollution on Saturday, November 9th. The meetings will be held in Wilson Hall, on the University's campus, commencing at 8:30 A.M. Registration fee, which includes luncheon, coffee breaks, and parking, is \$7.50. Presiding officers will be Mrs. Fred Mauntel and Mr. Parker Wheatley.

The speakers will be Dr. David Gates, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Dr. Robert Karsh, M.D., Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Information, Dr. Barry Commoner, Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, Washington University, Alfred Kahn, Department of Public Administration and Metropolitan Affairs, Southern Illinois University, and Ian McHarg, Landscape Architect, Philadelphia.

With such knowledgeable authorities this conference offers our community a rare opportunity of becoming more informed on our environmental crisis. We urge our members to participate in this conference. Those of us who attended the National Audubon Convention in Boston in 1965 had the good fortune to hear some of the telling remarks and brilliant ideas of Ian McHarg at that time.

BIRD WALKS AND BIRD COUNTS

Auduboners! Remember, our society leads bird walks the third Saturday and the last Sunday of every month at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Arboretum at Gray's Summit. Meet at the main gate at 8 A.M. The *exception*, however, will be Saturday, November 16th, when no walk will be held because it is during the deer season, and, alas, not safe!

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society conducts field trips every Thursday. Call Kathryn Arhos, ME 1-3090, or Helen Hill, VI 3-5765 for meeting place. The monthly bird census of the society is taken the second Saturday of the month, at Busch Wildlife Area, Weldon Springs. The group meets at "Shop Lake" behind the headquarters building, at 8 A.M.

A TRIP ON THE ALLAGASH

By EMILY L. NORCROSS

As anyone who has headed north through New England knows, one travels "DOWN east" once one reaches the Maine coast. Map-wise, it's "up" — but that's the State of Maine for you!

Equally confusing are the whimsical directions of some of Maine's rivers, specifically, the Allagash. Last August I had the fun and thrill of a week's canoe trip on this wild and unspoiled stream, but my inner compass is still unstable. We traveled DOWN the river, but our course was due north. I am accustomed to logical rivers like the Mississippi which flow southward, down a map!

The top central counties of Maine bulge up into Canada. We "put in" at a latitude miles north of Montreal, and "took out" on the level of the city of Quebec. Yet we were traveling a United States stream, thanks to an averted border war, and fortunate negotiations of the 1840s.

A quick look at a road map shows it is wilderness country. It is reached by a five or six hour drive from Portland to where the black top ends, and then a couple of hours on uncharted and unmarked loggers' roads. We did not have the time to follow the whole route of the Allagash to its junction with the St. John on the Canadian border, so we were flown out by hydroplane at the end of our trip. It took an air route, versus a road route, to bring us back to our cars.

This vast area of undeveloped wilderness has been preserved through being owned in giant sized tracts by the great paper companies. Flying back over the 65 miles we had covered in canoes we saw from the air no sign of any settlement in any direction. Nothing but forests, lakes, streams, and the cuts made by the lumber roads.

In 1966 the Allagash Wilderness Waterways was established by Maine's legislature. Federal funds matched state funds to purchase a restricted zone 400 to 800 feet back from the high water mark along the 92 mile water corridor. Secretary of the Interior Udall has called its establishment a "natural resources milestone", and a "new concept of conservation." No timber cutting or constructions of any kind are allowed. In the outer zone, one mile back, lumbering is carried out only under state approved plans. Camp sites are primitive, and there are no facilities for "public transportation."

Registered guides, however, are allowed to use a small 5 H.P. motor. This came in mighty handy, as our guide towed us quietly through the long lakes of the waterway. Across the small ponds, and down the river, we took to our paddles in good Ozark stream style. But in the wilder white water our stern paddlers were coached in using what the Maine woodsman calls a setting pole. Over ten feet long, with a steel tip, it is used as a snubber — to slow down the speed of the canoe in rapids. The stern man moves forward toward the center of the boat, stands upright (if possible!), and also uses his pole as an axis on which to swivel the canoe, and turn the bow safely around the corner of a foam flecked boulder. Neither a pole nor a passenger was lost overboard, but it was nip and tuck on several occasions.

One twelve mile stretch known as Chase Rips will long be remembered! But we made it.

To say we were as one with nature is to describe our trip in the simplest and truest of cliches. We identified 37 species of wildflowers, were frustrated by the exquisite ferns and mosses that composed the forest floor, and struggled over warblers who were shifting from their nuptial plumage to more confusing garb. We startled a shy but exceedingly curious mink at a bend of the river, deer, feeding at the water's edge, and a cow moose.

We were, of course, in loon country, and went to sleep each night

hearing their wild cries. Our first osprey put on a fine diving show for us just as we were putting in the river. Frequently we surprised families of black ducks, swimming silently in formation across the placid ponds, and white winged scoters, who also nest in the Allagash country. Squirrels and Canada jays were so tame that they all but ate from our plates. They would have eaten well! Our guide, who provided us with excellent camping equipment, also set a fine camp table! He fed us deliciously on birch wood broiled steaks, Cross and Blackwell canned blueberries, and home-made rolls baked in a reflector oven.

The only thing missing from our menu was trout. Yes, we saw the fish jumping. But we had safely stowed our licenses in our wallets, and carelessly locked our wallets miles back in our parked cars.

Far behind us as we paddled we could always see Mt. Kathadin in the blue distance. At night, the August moon was full, and by day the sun and the water were warm. The black flies were over, the mosquitoes had called a truce, and by the time the midges came out in the evening we were safely camped in a clearing above the midge belt at the lake edges.

Thoreau, who took two trips into this country in the middle of the last century, couldn't have had it so good!

LEPRECHAUNS OF THE PAW PAW PATCH

By LANIER CRIGER

Again the 1968 Audubon group of the Pitzman Program at Missouri Botanical Gardens, (Shaw's Garden) was a huge success, we think. Because of the lack of teachers we had classes on Tuesdays only during the first term, June 18 to July 19. We had 110 children the first term and 131 children the second term, a total of 241 children attending the Audubon classes.

Because of the lack of birds in the garden, we had more guest speakers to off-set this condition. Each year the birds are fewer. We see the usual dooryard and garden variety and the little green heron and the spotted sand-piper still remain.

This year we had three newcomers to our teaching staff, Mrs. Struthers (Kit), Mrs. Spener (Claudia), and Mrs. Brooke (Betsy), who taught the second term. Our old standby, Miss Owens (Sarah) attended classes at Webster College. Our veteran of three years, Mrs. Higgins (Marilyn), held the fort the first term. Without her help we couldn't have had a program. The new teachers took turns assisting us during the first term. It worked out very well.

June 18th was a get acquainted day, and we talked about winter birds. June 25th, second week, Garry Boehm, a herpetologist, also a graduate student of Missouri University and a guest speaker on our program in 1966, brought several harmless reptiles with him, and he had quite a collection of preserved poisonous snakes and tarantula. The children were very interested in his exhibits and in his talk. July 2nd, third week, Richard Grossenheider gave his talk on mammals and brought sketches of the various animals, also a three month old coyote. This day was also publicity day, the photographers were all over the place; the children ate it up. The little coyote was very calm, friendly, and very curious, and it was almost a question of who was the more interested, the coyote or the children. Dick let the children touch and pet the animal, and they were quite thrilled to be able to see and to hear about him. On August 6th, during the second term Dick again brought the little coyote along, but he was larger and his coloring had changed. The children who had attended the first term noticed this at once, and they enjoyed seeing these change in the animal. The fourth week, July 9th, we studied Birds of Prey, and Bill Brush and Charles Clark showed Martin Schweig's redtailed hawk and horned owl. The children

liked viewing both of these birds at close range. The owl was the only bird that would allow the children to touch it and in this manner they learned the difference between the soft owl feathers and the hard hawk feathers. The Audubon booklet furnished by the Audubon Society each year, tell this story of feathers quite well. The fifth week, July 16th, we studied about Game Birds; the Conservation Officer was unable to visit us the first term because Tuesday was Court day. We had bird walk instead, led by Bill Voelker, a former student of the Audubon classes.

The second term, July 23rd to August 22nd, was a duplicate of the first term with the exception of two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday, with the help of Mrs. Struthers, Mrs. Brooke, and Mrs. Spener. Tuesday was devoted to our guest speaker and Thursday was given to lessons following the Audubon book and a brief lesson on the subject of the coming speaker. August 8th, Bill Voelker, a very talented young birder, gave an interesting talk on feathers of Birds of Prey. Bill brought nine species of hawk tails to show to the children; he also used the new Audubon bird chart on "Hawks of North America." The children were very interested in his program and they asked very good questions of Bill, who parried them very well. August 13 was publicity day for the second term, with Bill Brush and Charles Clark and the owl and the redtailed hawk. August 22nd, and graduation day, we had Mr. Jennings and Mr. Woodhead of the Conservation Commission talk to the children on laws pertaining to game and song birds. The children responded very well to this program. I was very proud of them.

As usual we have had some perennials, some students have been with us six years, some four years, some two years, so you see, it seems to be a popular program.

This year my husband took pictures of graduation day and of the conservation program, and I took pictures of the other programs to add to my pictorial record of Shaw's Garden.

I want to thank all the people who were responsible for our having had a successful program for 1968, and to the 241 Leprechauns that occupied the Paw Paw Patch, but of course, we all know that without them it wouldn't even be summer.

WHAT'S NEW IN BOOKS?

The newest book — or at least the most important to our readers — is "A Guide to Finding Birds in the St. Louis Area," by Dick Anderson and Paul Bauer. Dick, who is a member of our board of directors, and Paul, president of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, have done a superb job. They tell you *when* to go *where* to find *what*. AND how to get there! Invaluable!

Mailed copies are available for \$1.10 by sending a check to St. Louis Audubon Society, 5079 Waterman Ave., Apt. 106, St. Louis, Mo. 63108.

Auduboners may be interested to know that Zim and Singer have written an excellent tree field guide, comparable to their "Birds of North America," published in paper back by the Golden Press.

Peterson has done it again! This time it is "A Field Guide to Wildflowers," with Margaret McKenny, published by Houghton Mifflin. It is the best and easiest field book on wildflowers we, editorially, have ever worked with!

In case you missed it, "The Birds and the Beasts Were There," by Margaret Millar, was published last spring by Random House. Mrs. Millar, a writer of suspense novels, lives in Santa Barbara, and the book is her delightful, amusing, and informative story of how she became a bird watcher.

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

By HENRIETTA LAMMERT, Chairman

We are so lucky that William Goodall from National Audubon is to be in charge of arrangements for the Convention April 25-29, 1969. He is a man of vast experience, great diplomacy, and enormous ability. Mr. Goodall recently spent several days here going over all arrangements and plans. The following Committee Chairmen met with him:

Mrs. Earl Hath and Mrs. William Wiese.....	Hospitality
Alex Hope	Editor, Membership
Alberta Bolinger.....	Information Booth
Richard Anderson and Earl Hath.....	Convention Field Trips
Mrs. Joel Massie and Leonard Hall.....	Pre-Post Convention Trips
Richard Grossenheider and Mrs. Cecil Criger.....	Posters and Signs
Cecil Criger	Equipment
Mrs. Hiram Norcross.....	Assistant to the Chairman
Trip Leaders: Mrs. Chris Arhos, Paul Bauer, Mrs. Joel Massie, Louis Brenner, Harry Giessow, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Strickling	
Other Committees and Chairmen are: Finance, Joel Massie; Speaker and VIP Advisory, Elizabeth Golterman; Observations, Earl Comfort.	

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society, The Missouri State Audubon Society, The Burroughs Club of Kansas City, The St. Joseph Audubon Society, and the Columbia Audubon Society plan to co-operate in every way with the St. Louis Audubon Society to make this convention a great success.

ERNST-ELLIOTT NATURE LIBRARY

By ELIZABETH GOLTERMAN

More than 500 books on ornithology, botany, astronomy, and other fields of natural science have been installed in the library of the Museum of Science and Natural History at Clayton and Big Bend Roads as a long term loan from Miss Lucy Cable Elliott, owner of the Ernst-Elliott Nature Library.

These books were collected over a period of years by Miss Elliott and a fellow-birder, Miss Lillie R. Ernst, former principal and assistant superintendent in the St. Louis public schools. After Miss Ernst's death, the books were placed on extended loan to the city school system's Division of Audiovisual Education for use by school personnel and other outdoor science students of this area. Recent changes in the Audiovisual Building made it necessary to clear space for other functions, and the books were transferred to the museum's third floor library, where shelves were ready to accommodate the 40 running feet of books in the Ernst-Elliott collection. Members of the Academy of Science and the Audubon Society will find this collection a useful center for reading and research. The library will be open on appointment, by calling PA 6-2888.

Selected with discriminating care over a period of years, the Ernst-Elliott Nature Library is one of the outstanding collections of its kind in this area. Books cover a span of time from 1843 to 1968. Included are a complete bound set of Arthur C. Bent's series published by the U. S. Government between 1919 and 1953; Charles Bendire's *Life Histories of North American Birds* (1895); and the Baird, Brewer and Ridgway three volume edition of *History of North American Land Birds* (1874).

Some of the books and portfolios represent illustrators of the past hundred years. Many of these are collectors' items, such as John Torrey's

Flora of the State of New York, published in 1843.

Bird illustrators include Audubon in the recent magnificent Heritage Press publication; and such other artists as Richard Bishop, Rex Brashear, Allan Brooks, Fuertes, Grossenheider, Peterson, Philip Rickman, Charles Schwartz, Sutton, and Tunnicliffe.

Many of the books are popular in nature: Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne*; Louis J. Halle's *Spring in Washington*; William Brewster's *Concord River* and *October Farm*. Robert Cushman Murphy's *Logbook for Grace* written as a daily record for his wife of the Darwin-like voyage that he took as a scientific expedition during his first year of married life, and his wife Grace Murphy's book *There's Always Adventure* tell a joint story of a scientists's life and work as seen from two points of view. Virginia Eifert's *Men, Birds, and Adventure* and *Tall Trees and Far Horizons* tell of some of America's outstanding ornithologists and botanists, for whom birds and plants have been named.

Miss Lucy Cable Elliott, owner of the collection, has retired as Supervisor of Special Education in the St. Louis public schools, and lives at the Gatesworth Manor, 245 N. Union. The Lucy Elliott Building at the St. Louis State School and Hospital on Bellefontaine Road has been named for her, in recognition of her work for handicapped children.

ON FEEDING BIRDS THIS WINTER

By AUGUST ULBRICH

It is marvelous the number of wintering song birds that may be attracted to any home area. This may not be apparent to the casual observer but is common knowledge to anyone who feeds birds in winter.

What other hobby on a cold, snowy winter day, seated comfortably at the window of one's home can be more rewarding than to watch the goings-on at well-filled feeders frequented by brilliantly colored cardinals, energetic titmice and merry-voiced chickadees? Cracked corn and sunflower seed mixture is good bird feed. Expensive feed put up in small bags is not economical.

Feeding birds in winter should be encouraged, not only for the immediate pleasure obtained; it should also be remembered that birds that feed in winter are likely to be around in summer with song, and on the job of insect control. Most species that frequent the feeders are non-migratory.

It is generally thought that our wild birds can take care of themselves. They can. But not as easily as in the days when trees and shrubs and tall grasses grew along fences and roadsides. This growth bore bountiful crops of seed and berries, and was a very important food source for our wintering songbirds. Nowadays, for greater visibility along the highways and for more pasture and closer cropping along fences, this natural growth has almost all been removed. And the feeder of birds, whether he knows it or not, makes restitution for this lost source of wild bird food, and does them a good turn.

Bird feeders should be put up early in fall with small amounts of feed in them to get the birds accustomed to the feeders. They will come occasionally, but will not feed heavily until the really cold weather sets in when the feeders should be kept well filled. If there are many birds in the area, and one did not get to put up the feeders early, they still may be put up at any time during the cold weather and the birds will soon spot them.

So feed the birds in winter, enjoy their presence and antics and help promote their conservation, for they are, after all, one of our best natural insect controls.

FALL BIRDS IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA

By J. EARL COMFORT

The fall season birding between September 1st and November 1st was interesting with many pleasant days spent afield by various groups ranging in number from 3 participants to 60 or more observers. Spotty warbler and shorebird migrations were given special attention until they became so scarce other species were given more attention. Best shorebird species was a knot identified across the river from St. Louis by Dick and Mildred (Mitzi) Anderson on September 22nd. Some other good late fall shorebird species were Baird's and buff-breasted sandpipers and northern phalaropes. Some interesting warbler listings were worm eating, golden-winged, Cape May, cerulean, pine and prairie.

A horned grebe appeared on October 26th.

Giant Canada geese, thought to be extinct, were studied at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area by many observers during the period mentioned above.

A black vulture was seen by George Cameron and Lee Bess in Illinois down levee along the Mississippi River. A Mississippi kite was observed by Mary Wiese on September 28th. Several observers listed a pigeon hawk. There were several large migrations of broad-winged hawks, one numbering about 250 birds. Osprey were welcome listings by many observers.

Migrating nighthawks in great numbers were seen in late September. This is always an interesting sight.

Red-breasted nuthatches became quite common in September after a long period of absence.

Rarest members of the finch family listed during the period were Henslow's and clay-colored sparrows. Sally Vasse reported she and others had banded several Lincoln's and European tree sparrows.

Late October good finds were Caspian terns and water pipits.

Some of the above-mentioned observations were the result of several Webster Groves Nature Study Society field trips and the St. Louis Audubon Society Shaw's Garden Arboretum nature hikes led by Earl Hath. Some other favorite birding sites visited were the Calhoun Division of the Mark Twain Federal Wildlife Refuge in Jersey and Calhoun counties in Illinois, Creve Coeur Lake in St. Louis County and the Busch Wildlife Area in St. Charles County, where a monthly bird census is taken by The WGNSS. Dick Vasse supervises the Calhoun refuge, assisted by his wife, Sally.

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